UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/675
13 November 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: CHINESE

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 29

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Letter dated 31 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of three resolutions, entitled "Promoting greater respect and protection of human rights in general and in particular for women and children", "Worldwide ban on anti-personnel mines and the need for mine clearance for humanitarian purposes" and "Policies and strategies to ensure the right to food in this time of globalization of the economy and trade liberalization", which were adopted in Beijing on 20 September 1996 by the 96th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (see annexes I, II and III, respectively).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 29.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
and Permanent Representative of the People's
Republic of China to the United Nations

ANNEX I

[Original: English and French]

Resolution adopted without a vote on 20 September 1996 by the 96th Inter-Parliamentary Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Beijing

Promoting greater respect and protection of human rights in general and in particular for women and children

The 96th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Emphasizing the responsibility of all nations, in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religious belief or social position,

Bearing in mind the aim of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments, namely to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms - civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Noting with satisfaction that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reiterate that the right to development is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of human rights,

Reaffirming that efforts to promote and protect human rights should be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law,

Underlining that the current world economic order is still unjust, and therefore hinders the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and adversely affects women and children in particular,

Expressing deep concern about the deterioration of living conditions in developing countries which deprives their inhabitants of full enjoyment of their human rights and, in particular, about the harmful effects of economic hardship and a heavy foreign debt burden on the developing countries,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action emphasize that the human rights of women and children are an indispensable and inalienable part of universal human rights,

Recalling:

- The Declaration and Plan of Action on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children adopted at the World Summit for Children which stress special protection for children,

- The commitments, especially concerning full respect for all human rights, fundamental freedoms and non-discrimination, set out in the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995,

Recalling further the successful work of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Conference,

Convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will contribute to eliminating discrimination against women and raising the social status of women in the world, and *considering* that all governments, UN bodies, parliaments of all nations, non-governmental organizations, public and private organizations should give effect to them,

Recognizing that the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are important international human rights instruments for the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children,

Conscious that while some countries have made tangible efforts to attain equality between men and women and achieved noticeable results, others have failed to make adequate efforts, with the result that inequality between men and women is still common and much remains to be done,

Deeply concerned at the many forms of discrimination and violence against women and children resulting from poor social and economic conditions, natural disasters, armed conflict, economic and sexual exploitation, terrorism and drug trafficking, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance and disability in many parts of the world, requiring nations and the international community to take immediate and effective remedial measures consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,

Aware that the number of economically exploited children has increased substantially over the last five years and that their working conditions have seriously deteriorated, resulting in greater physical, emotional and mental suffering,

Conscious that the causes of child labour are primarily rooted in poverty created by social and economic inequality as well as in insufficient educational facilities,

Recognizing that people with disabilities, in particular children, face additional barriers to the equal enjoyment of human rights,

Reaffirming the principle set out in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that efforts to solve the problems concerning children, in particular the girl child, should give priority to non-discrimination and the best interests of children, and take account of the opinions of children,

Welcoming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women which emphasizes that violence against women constitutes infringement upon, hindrance to and denial of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women,

Noting with concern that there are many political prisoners and displaced persons as a result of terrorism and armed conflict in the world and that they include women and children,

Recalling the resolution on sexual violence against women adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights on 21 August 1996 in Geneva,

Drawing attention in particular to the following texts adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Conferences:

- Resolution on the protection of the rights of children (Budapest, March 1989);
- Resolution on policies to put an end to violence against children and women (Pyongyang, May 1991);
- Plan of Action to correct present imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life (Paris, March 1994);
- Resolution on parliamentary action for women's access to and participation in decision-making structures aimed at achieving true equality for women (Madrid, April 1995);
- Resolution on strategies for effective implementation of national and international commitments adopted at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen (Bucharest, October 1995),

1. *Calls on* all governments to intensify their efforts to remove obstacles to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, to strengthen international co-operation, to promote mutual understanding through dialogue and to promote and protect human rights on the basis of equality and mutual respect;

2. *Also calls on* all States to establish or, where they already exist, to strengthen national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and to ensure that these institutions are independent of government, have a reliable source of financing, are pluralistic and represent those in society involved in the promotion and protection of human rights, are empowered to comment on the human rights performance of the government and are active in human rights education;

3. *Further calls on* all governments and UN bodies to strengthen their co-operation, consider the best ways and means of implementing the Declaration on the Right to Development, foster progress in the attainment of this right and pay special attention to the condition of women and children;

4. *Urges* the governments of the industrialized countries to end cuts in official development assistance and instead to aim at the target set by the United Nations (from 0.7 percent to 1 percent of GNP), in view of the fact that poverty is often the cause of the difficult human rights situation of women and children;

5. *Calls on* all countries, UN bodies, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to take appropriate action to reevaluate their policies, readjust the current international economic order and establish fair and just relations between all countries of the world;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for creditor countries to take effective measures to cancel or reduce the debt burden of developing countries and eventually solve their debt problems;

7. *Urges* all governments to promote the protection of the human rights of women and girls by taking effective measures to implement fully the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (September 1995), and all parliaments to follow up on

the commitment they undertook in the Beijing Parliamentary Declaration to implement the recommendations of the Beijing Conference;

8. *Appeals* to countries which have not yet done so to accede to or ratify as soon as possible the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and *urges* the States parties to these instruments to take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to implement the above Conventions effectively;

9. *Urges* all countries to formulate and implement their plans of action according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Declaration and Plan of Action on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children so as to protect and promote the rights of the child by strengthening international co-operation, giving priority, *inter alia*, to reducing infant mortality, child malnutrition and the rate of illiteracy, providing children with safe and clean drinking water, health care and sanitation, and basic education, and solving the problems of children who live in absolute poverty;

10. *Calls on* the parliaments and governments of the countries concerned and the international community to take emergency measures to protect the rights of the child and particularly those of girls, abandoned children, street children, children who are victims of economic and sexual exploitation, including child pornography, child prostitution or trafficking in human organs, trafficking in children for purposes of adoption, children suffering from diseases including AIDS, refugee and displaced children, detained children, children suffering owing to armed conflict, famine, drought or harm caused by other emergency situations;

11. *Strongly condemns* the conscription and recruitment of children in armed forces or armed groups (especially when these are forced), as a violation of fundamental human rights requiring the punishment of those responsible for such heinous acts;

12. *Recommends* that parliaments and governments adopt and implement a programme setting out standards for the protection of women and children living in zones of national or international conflicts, of which they are the main victims, as has been proven on many occasions;

13. *Appeals* to all governments to use more effective measures, such as targeted education programmes and the provisions of criminal law, as well as police co-operation and co-operation with the media, tour operating companies and Internet and other network operators etc., to ensure that child prostitution and child pornography are consistently condemned and eliminated by society on a global scale;

14. *Commends* the holding of the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, 27-31 August 1996), and *calls on* parliaments and governments to take action to support the Declaration and Agenda for Action by enacting legislation to implement their recommendations;

15. *Calls on* national parliaments, governments and the international community to initiate an open in-depth debate with a view to the adoption of measures that will tackle the root causes of child labour, *inter alia* by means of specific strategies

and long-term programmes designed to address all causal factors of this complex issue;

16. *Urges* national parliaments and governments to ensure the provision of compulsory primary education and health care which are accessible to all and relevant to the individual child, paying particular attention to the inclusion of girls and children from marginalized groups;

17. *Calls on* States to recognize the important and constructive role that non-governmental organizations can play and to support their efforts aimed at enhancing promotion and respect of human rights;

18. *Also calls on* States where appropriate to provide advisory and technical services, to send on-site missions of experts to States that request them as well as to assist States to find ways and means to implement the rights set out in international legal instruments;

19. *Requests* the United Nations to consider the implications of trade-related sanctions with a view to addressing their negative impact on women and children;

20. *Rejects* any coercive or unilateral measures, whether political or legal, applied by one country against another, since such measures ultimately penalize men, women and children who are alien to political controversies and interests and should therefore be regarded as an infringement of human rights;

21. *Calls on* parliaments and governments worldwide to strongly condemn and combat drug production and trafficking and terrorism, as their destructive action begins with children and through them, affects society as a whole;

22. *Also calls on* parliaments and governments to introduce programmes of positive action and education to ensure non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of human rights in accordance with standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, in particular women and children;

23. *Appeals to* all countries to settle disputes and differences peacefully through negotiations, to make concerted efforts to promote economic and social development and to create an environment conducive to the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly by women and children;

24. *Strongly condemns* sexual violence including in armed conflicts, particularly the use of rape as an instrument of terror, forced prostitution and all other forms of sexual aggression, *recommends* that all parliaments and governments take emergency action to confront and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; and *recommends* that the United Nations further extend the powers of the international tribunals to ensure that States and individuals are held accountable for such crimes;

25. *Calls on* States to exercise diligence to make sure that violence is not occurring in the home and schools and to stop invoking customs, traditions or religion to avoid their obligation to eliminate violence against women and children;

26. *Recommends* that all parliaments and governments provide constitutional guarantees, promulgate and implement proper laws to prohibit sexual discrimination against all women and girls of all ages, including at the workplace

and in school programmes and textbooks, and ensure that women enjoy rights equal to those of men and fully exercise these rights;

27. *Urges* governments to end forced sterilization of women and forced abortion, which in all cases constitute a grave violation of the woman's personal integrity and in some cases are also used for suppressing peoples and minorities;

28. *Requests* all countries to reflect the principle of equality between men and women in their legislation and take effective measures to guarantee the implementation of this principle;

29. *Also requests* the parliaments of all countries to:

- Examine their national legislation, including customary law and legal practice regarding, *inter alia*, the family, civil matters, crime, labour and commercial activities, to ensure that the principles governing international human rights instruments are implemented through national legislation, abolish any existing laws based on sexual discrimination and eliminate sexual discrimination in all areas of society;

- Pursue efforts towards the establishment of family-friendly societies in order to promote the rights of members of the family, especially the rights of women and girl children in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 50/142: Follow-up to the International Year of the Family;

30. *Urges* parliaments and governments to devise comprehensive human rights education programmes, enlisting the assistance of political circles (governments, national and local politicians, administrations) as well as all the players in civil society (families, teachers, students, media, associations), and to ensure that such programmes are implemented as part of the education system and relayed to all areas of social life;

31. *Requests* all countries to implement education curricula which include programmes for eliminating ignorance of the law and to make use of the media, in order to help women to understand their rights and exercise them through the legal system;

32. *Appeals* to parliaments and governments to condemn, and to take all possible action to ban, prostitution and pornography and to enact legislation prohibiting their dissemination through the media;

33. *Calls on* parliaments and governments to develop co-operation and the exchange of experience between women representatives from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations operating in different fields, in order to promote the rights of women in the family and society;

34. *Requests* all parliaments and governments to have translated into the native languages of their countries international legislation and other material concerning human rights and especially the equality of the status and human rights of women, and to ensure the most extensive dissemination of this material in order to heighten women's awareness of their rights.

ANNEX II

[Original: English and French]

Resolution adopted without a vote* on 20 September 1996 by the 96th Inter-Parliamentary Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Beijing

Worldwide ban on anti-personnel mines and the need for mine clearance for humanitarian purposes

The 96th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Concerned that the widespread use of landmines is a considerable obstacle to the establishment of conditions for peace within and between States previously in conflict, as well as in States whose territories were the scene of an international conflict,

Acknowledging that landmines continue to disrupt refugee settlement, agricultural development and reconstruction of basic communications and transportation infrastructures long after armed conflict has ended,

Aware that the widespread loss of life and injury caused by landmines perpetuate inter-community and inter-State tensions,

Aware also of the tremendous loss of life and destruction that such weapons inflict on economies, especially those of young countries, which need all their human resources to win the battle for development,

Concerned that there are over 110 million anti-personnel mines laid in more than 60 countries - most of them in the developing world - and that a further 100 million remain in national stockpiles,

Deploring the fact that every year some 10 million anti-personnel mines are produced, and *condemning* the fact that 2 million new mines are laid annually, whereas mine clearance operations account for the removal of no more than approximately 100,000 mines a year,

Appalled at the fact that landmines have maimed at least 250,000 people in the world and kill more than 10,000 people each year, more than 90 per cent of whom are civilians, mostly women and children,

Aware of the dangers of landmines for peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, and *deploring* the fact that 42 persons engaging in such activities have been killed and 315 injured,

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* The Chinese delegation expressed a reservation to operative paragraph 1, while the Cuban, Libyan and Vietnamese delegations expressed reservations to the text as a whole.

Noting that a further danger of anti-personnel mines is that their low cost of manufacturing (US$ 3-5 per mine) makes them affordable to even the poorest countries, and *pointing out* that, by contrast, the human and financial cost of mine clearance is particularly high (US$ 900-1000 per mine),

Convinced that mine clearance and support measures, namely the re-establishment of security and the facilitation of reconstruction measures in affected areas, require international solidarity and greater involvement of the States affected by the landmine problem, as well as understanding and co-operation on the part of States responsible for laying them,

Welcoming the contributions already made by States to mine clearance, and the notable achievements of many international and non-governmental organizations in tackling the mine problem worldwide, especially the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Review Conference of the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), as well as United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/70(0) of 12 December 1995,

Recalling the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promotion of international humanitarian law and a total ban on anti-personnel mines, particularly the resolutions on these subjects adopted at the 90th, 93rd and 94th Conferences,

Welcoming the unilateral steps taken by a number of States to ban the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines,

Concerned that, often, the instability of the terrain in which landmines are laid makes their location and removal or deactivation impossible,

1. *Calls on* parliamentarians to urge their governments to ban anti-personnel mines, develop comprehensive programmes for destroying existing stockpiles and support international efforts to achieve a binding international agreement on a global ban;

2. *Also calls on* States to accede at least to revised Protocol II (landmines) of the CCW which was adopted on 3 May 1996 at the Review Conference in Geneva;

3. *Further calls on* States to accede to Protocol IV (Blinding Laser Weapons) of the CCW;

4. *Urges* those States which are not yet parties to the CCW to take the necessary steps to accede to it, and *calls on* all States to strengthen and promote universal adherence to that instrument;

5. *Requests* the United Nations to strengthen its efforts to secure the elimination of anti-personnel landmines;

6. *Calls on* the international community, in the meantime, through the United Nations, to draw up an international register of transfers of and trade in anti-personnel mines;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment in September 1994 of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, and *calls on* the international community to provide ongoing financial support since present funding is inadequate, only US$ 20 of the 75 million sought having been so far made available;

8. *Calls on* States to provide financial assistance for mine clearance on a bilateral and multilateral basis, take measures to raise awareness of the dangers of landmines and train mine-clearance personnel;

9. *Urges* States with expertise in mine clearance to provide technical assistance and advice to countries requiring them and to develop local mine-clearance capabilities in these countries, and *recommends* to this end the following support measures:

   (a) Development of training in mine detection, mine clearance and munitions destruction for former soldiers or other suitable personnel in the affected areas, which will also facilitate their reintegration following demobilization;

   (b) Participation in programmes to catalogue, map and mark mines and minefields;

   (c) Exchange of data with landmine documentation centres and exchange of information on mines and explosive devices that have been planted during conflicts after the cessation of hostilities;

   (d) Initiation of and support for programmes to raise awareness and educate local populations;

   (e) Promotion of integrated programmes to provide assistance for landmine victims (setting-up and funding of orthopaedic workshops and surgery centres, rehabilitation of landmine victims);

   (f) Support of non-governmental organizations in such activities and improvement of the conditions under which they operate in the countries concerned;

   (g) Promotion of technical improvements to maximize the effectiveness of mine detection and humanitarian mine-clearance operations and the ensuring of the fullest possible exchange of equipment for this purpose;

10. *Calls on* States to assist humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their activities, particularly their current programmes to make the civilian population aware of the dangers posed by mines, and in providing aid to the victims of anti-personnel mines;

11. *Notes* the important work being done by the IPU's *Ad Hoc* Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), especially the survey it is conducting on parliamentary action to ensure application at the national level of IHL and of the IPU's recommendations concerning anti-personnel mines, *thanks* those Parliaments which have already replied, and *urges* all IPU members which have not yet done so to supply promptly the information requested;

12. *Calls* for the IPU, in conjunction with other international organizations, to work towards a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines.

ANNEX III

[Original: English and French]

Resolution adopted by consensus on 20 September 1996 by the 96th Inter-Parliamentary Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Beijing

Policies and strategies to ensure the right to food in this time of globalization of the economy and trade liberalization

The 96th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Recalling Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food...",

Noting with concern that close to 800 million people in developing countries suffer from chronic undernutrition, and almost 200 million children under five from protein and energy deficiencies and that as many as 88 nations fall in the category of low-income food-deficit countries, and *also noting with concern* that the problem of food shortages has worsened since the 1974 World Food Conference, particularly in recent years, and that no tangible progress has been made in achieving the main goal of that Conference,

Taking note of the recommendations and resolutions adopted by United Nations conferences concerning development and food security, particularly the Programme of Action adopted by the World Food Conference (1992), the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (1994) and the principles adopted at the World Summit for Social Development (1995),

Expressing the hope that, at the World Food Summit due to take place in Rome in November 1996, world leaders, addressing the problem of food security at the highest level, will elaborate effective policies and strategies,

Underscoring that the grave situation that has arisen from the drop in world food production, the exhaustion of a great many stocks and the fall in food supplies to a level which is close to being critical for food security, is a threat to all countries and in particular the developing ones,

Stressing the need for a global assessment of food and agricultural problems, in particular in the developing countries, which takes account of the short- and long-term risks of conflict,

Recognizing that food insecurity and poverty are fundamentally interrelated and must be addressed within a broad framework that encompasses social concerns and economic growth,

Also recognizing the negative effects that distortionary agricultural policies have had on agricultural production, investment and trade, and food security,

Convinced that women play a key role, especially in the agricultural sector of the developing countries, and that their empowerment would therefore significantly contribute to improving food security,

Acknowledging the role of trade in promoting economic growth and in providing the wherewithal for poverty alleviation and the capacity to secure food supplies,

Deeming that the persistently difficult economic situation in many countries, especially the unfavourable trends in the food and agricultural sectors, calls for forceful measures at the national and international level with a view to promoting and ensuring economic recovery and development,

Recognizing that stepping up food production, in particular in net food-importing developing countries, improves food self-sufficiency and is therefore very important to the achievement of food security,

Concerned at the persistent difficulties which the majority of developing countries are experiencing owing to a number of insoluble problems such as unfavourable long-term trends in international commodity prices, protectionism, deteriorating terms of trade, the growing debt servicing burden, the imbalance between net transfers of resources to and from developing countries, all of which have had a deleterious effect on international trade and agriculture,

Noting that the Uruguay Round results recognize, in particular in the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Countries, that, despite the positive impact of economic growth and trade liberalization on overall food security, the reform process could adversely affect some least developed net food-importing countries in the short term, and *emphasizing* that the phasing-out of the subsidies which the developed countries grant for agricultural products can have grave consequences,

Expressing its concern at the current decline in donations, official development assistance and foreign aid, particularly to the agricultural sectors of the developing countries,

Stressing that the world's current main food and agricultural problems have a number of root causes, including weak overall development, particularly in the agricultural and rural sectors, population growth, inadequate purchasing power, poverty and poor distribution systems, challenges to food supplies from civil strife, harvest failure and other unforeseen occurrences, as well as the absence of a favourable economic climate, all of which are reflected by a lack of food security,

1. *Stresses* the absolute need to encourage and increase food production in the developing countries, particularly in Africa and in the least developed countries, in order to promote their economic growth and social progress and to contribute actively to solving the problems of hunger and malnutrition;

2. *Recommends* that the developing countries, in their national efforts, give higher priority to supporting food production and setting up the necessary structures for efficient marketing and distribution, which in turn will create jobs, in order to ensure an adequate food supply and the equitable distribution of foodstuffs;

3. *Calls on* the developing countries to endeavour to accelerate industrialization and diversify their economic structures with a view to increasing agricultural and food production, *stresses* in this connection the importance of financing investment in the agricultural sector, an objective which must be included in international co-operation policies and programmes at the bilateral and

multilateral levels, and *urges* governments to participate in the Microcredit Summit to be held in Washington, D.C. in February 1997 where plans for financing agricultural and other development will be considered;

4. *Urges* the international community to support training in scientific and technological research in the developing countries with a view to promoting sustainable agricultural development in those countries, and *stresses* the need to strengthen international co-operation for the transfer of environmentally sound agricultural technologies and to facilitate the open exchange of information concerning experiments and technologies relating to the production, processing and storage of foodstuffs;

5. *Calls on* the members of the international community to restructure the foreign aid and assistance allocated to the developing countries as well as investment in the development of their food production so that they are used for ensuring food supply in the recipient countries, by including food aid in social protection programmes, in order to guarantee that the problem of hunger - an obstacle to overall development is dealt with;

6. *Stresses* the need to supplement emergency food aid with additional aid for recovery and development with a view to helping the countries affected to rebuild their food-production capacity;

7. *Calls on* States to ensure that food is distributed to those in need without political interference;

8. *Also calls on* States to authorize inspection by donor agencies or groups handling food distribution;

9. *Calls* for the introduction of national policies and programmes that pave the way for environmentally sound agricultural development, rural economic development and sustainable natural resource management with a view to rapidly alleviating poverty in rural areas and the lack of food security, and *also calls* for a significant increase in the level of public and private investment in agriculture and in particular in food production;

10. *Calls on* States to propose solutions to the lack of world food security based on the principles of democratization and transparent and accountable governance, peace, sustainable development and respect for human rights, in particular the right to food, and also on the reduction of excessive military expenditure and non-social spending to release resources which can be reallocated to social and economic development;

11. *Also calls on* all countries, especially the developing ones, to enhance the role of women and strengthen their ability to contribute to and benefit from policies concerning them, primarily in the fields of financing, training and ownership;

12. *Urges* the developing countries to adopt effective policies to offset the negative effects of food price fluctuations on the international market and the resulting shortages of imported foodstuffs, by constituting reasonable foreign currency reserves and maintaining a certain level of emergency food reserves;

13. *Calls on* developed countries to take concrete measures in accordance with the undertaking given by ministers at Marrakesh to adopt guidelines to ensure that an increasing proportion of basic foodstuffs is supplied on grant or appropriately

concessional terms to least developed net food-importing countries, in line with the Food Aid Convention of 1986;

14. *Stresses* the need to improve the world economic situation, in particular through debt relief and the encouragement of foreign direct investment, in order to achieve food security in the developing world, particularly at the regional and sub-regional levels, taking account of both the production and distribution of food;

15. *Draws attention* to the need to pursue and co-ordinate international measures to cope with long-term problems caused by migratory flows and illnesses linked to undernourishment in the developing countries;

16. *Stresses* the need to step up efforts to achieve the four goals for the alleviation of hunger set out in the Declaration of Cairo adopted by the World Food Council at its 15th session:

    (a) Averting the risk of famine-related death;
    (b) Considerably reducing the number of cases of malnutrition and mortality among very young children;
    (c) Tangibly reducing the number of cases of chronic hunger;
    (d) Eliminating malnutrition-related illness;

17. *Calls on* the developing countries to strengthen their technological co-operation in the fields of food and agriculture in order to solve their food problems, and *urges* the UN to take on a major role in this field as the body responsible for promoting international co-operation in general and, in particular, technical co-operation between developing countries in the areas of food and agriculture;

18. *Endorses* the FAO's "Food for All" Campaign as a means to mobilize the whole of civil society in working towards eradicating hunger, raising public awareness of the implications of hunger for development, facilitating dialogue and promoting fund-raising activities;

19. *Calls on* all nations to honour the spirit of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as regards commitment to the liberalization of markets, in particular by facilitating trade in agricultural commodities with poorer nations, and to establish specific dispensations for developing countries whose agricultural sector plays a key role in the national economy in terms of employment generation and export earnings or whose prospects for viable agricultural production would be endangered;

20. *Also calls on* States to work towards the conclusion of international agreements specifying criteria for the sector of biotechnology and genetic engineering, and *encourages* the creation of a body which would represent the interests of countries that have gene resources and would distribute the resulting revenues;

21. *Further calls on* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to promote - in their respective areas of competence - national ... international measures aimed at stepping up efforts to combat hunger and to take up the challenges that face the developing countries in the area of food production;

22. *Endorses* the FAO's Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-income Food-deficit Countries which is based on the philosophy of national responsibility, the preservation of social equity and people's participation, and which focuses mainly on participatory demonstration of enhanced food production technologies, the analysis of production constraints and the development of water management and small-scale irrigation potential;

23. *Exhorts* all competent bodies within the UN system as well as regional and sub-regional financial institutions to strengthen their co-operation in the fields of food and agricultural development;

24. *Urges* the Heads of State and Government attending the World Food Summit to adopt practical decisions guaranteeing that all persons and all countries benefit from the strengthening, protection and exercise of the right to food as a fundamental human right, and to give the FAO a mandate to draft - following broad consultations with States, non-governmental organizations, employer and employee trade unions, universities and research centres - an international Code of Conduct ensuring the application of the policies and plans of action adopted at this Summit;

25. *Endorses* the decision to organize a Parliamentarians' Day on the occasion of the World Food Summit (Rome, 15 November 1996), and *urges* parliamentarians to respond to the invitation of the Italian Parliament to participate in that event;

26. *Calls on* the international community to work out, taking account of population growth and the basic needs of the population, a policy and strategies for development in line with the recommendations of *Agenda 21* adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio, June 1992), and with the broad outlines of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, September 1994);

27. *Stresses* that the right to food is one of the basic fundamental human rights, and *rejects* any use of the food issue by one or more countries or international bodies to exert political and economic pressure on other countries.